

FROM SIENA TO ROME

the present, to content herself with sending another flaming letter to Giovanna, once more urging the Urbanist case upon her, threatening her with the divine vengeance and the rebellion of her own subjects as the result of her vacillations. "I beseech you," she wrote, "fulfil in yourself the will of God and the desire of my soul, with which I desire, with all my heart and with all the powers of my soul, your salvation. And, therefore, constrained by the Divine Goodness which loves you ineffably, I have set myself to write to you with great grief. I wrote to you once before about this matter. Have patience, if I burden you too much with words, and if I speak to you confidently, irreverently. The love that I bear you makes me speak with confidence ; the sin that you have committed makes me depart from the reverence I owe you, and speak irreverently. Very much more am I fain to tell you the truth by word of mouth, for your salvation, and principally for the honour of God, than by writing."¹ For some while, Catherine continued to hope that she might still be able to go to Naples, and win the wayward soul of the Queen to what she deemed "the truth that we must know and love for our salvation."

Another and more grievous disappointment awaited Catherine. In November, Urban had decided to send a second embassy to France, and his choice had fallen upon Fra Raimondo as one of the ambassadors. The other was Jacopo di Ceva, "marshal of the Roman Curia," the same official who had acted as Pope Gregory's procurator in the process against the Florentines ; and they were to be joined on their arrival by a third, Guillaume de la Voulte, whom Urban had transferred from the bishopric of Marseilles to that of Valence, and who had not yet joined the Clementines. The friar was charged with briefs to the King, to the University of Paris (which was divided on the question of the day, one strong party still favouring Urban, while another desired an appeal to a General Council), to the Duke of Anjou, to Cardinal de Grimoard,

¹ Letter 317
(316).